

solutions on sunol

The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency in partnership with Caltrans, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission is managing Sunol Grade improvements.

Innovation and Cooperation Bring Quicker Solutions to I680 on the Sunol Grade

PROJECT I – ONE YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

What do Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Senator Liz Figueroa, local elected officials from three different counties, the Contra Costa Council, the Tri-Valley Business Council, the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Association, the Fremont Chamber, the Bay Area Council, local transportation agencies, and others have in common?

A demonstrated commitment to bringing quick relief to traffic congestion on the Sunol Grade!

In 1995, I-680 through the Sunol Grade was rated the 28th on the list of congested corridors in the Bay Area. By 1996, the Silicon Valley's strong job market and limited housing opportunities created a new commute pattern catapulting the Sunol Grade into second place for the most congested corridor in the Bay Area.

This rapidly intensifying traffic ignited calls from commuters and local elected officials to find quick solutions to the problem. By 1997, the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) had completed a study identifying a cost effective near term solution to the ever-increasing congestion.

Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher moved quickly to bring area elected

officials, business interests, and transportation concerns together to advocate solutions for the Sunol grade. As a result, Solutions on Sunol (SOS), a coalition of employers, business associations, transportation interests and others came together to advocate for funding and expedited results. Soon after, a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) made up of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA), the Santa Clara Valley



Congresswoman Tauscher

Transportation Authority (SCVTA), Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as well as Congresswoman Tauscher, Senator Figueroa, and local elected officials, such as PAC Chair and Fremont Mayor Gus Morrison and PAC Vice Chair and Milpitas Councilman Jim Lawson was formed to ensure the project needs were met and moved quickly through the process.



Mayor Gus Morrison

[continued on page 3](#)

Environmental Document Released for Comment No Significant Environmental Impact Expected

Over the past year Caltrans has prepared a number of different environmental and technical studies to determine whether the proposed HOV lane will have any significant impact on the environment. The studies addresses a number of issues including air quality, historic properties, geotechnical, socioeconomic conditions, growth, and more. The studies conclude that the project, which will be completed within the existing freeway right-of-way, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

The public is invited to comment on the environmental document in writing or by attending one of the public hearings:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Wednesday, December 8
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Middle School,
Multi-Purpose Room
5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton
or

Wednesday, December 15
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Fremont Library
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Robert Gross
Office of Environmental Planning
Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660
Submit by January 6, 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

Caltrans Public Affairs
510/286-6444

Call the Caltrans Sunol Grade Hotline for periodic project updates at 510/286-5910.

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I-680 Southbound Corridor Improvements in the Works



Project I – Auxiliary lane between Automall Parkway and Mission Blvd. South

Schedule	• Begin Construction	April 2000
	• End Construction	September 2000
Estimated Cost	\$3,000,000	



Project II – Southbound HOV Lane and Ramp Metering and Various structural Improvements

Schedule	• Begin Construction	Late 2000
	• HOV Lane complete = greatest traffic relief	Late 2001
	• End Construction	Late 2004
Estimated Cost	\$60,000,000	

Coordinated Relief for Sunol

ACCMA is also funding other efforts to relieve congestion on the Sunol Grade including:

The Altamont Commuter Express (ACE)

The ACE trains have just celebrated one year of service to commuters traveling between San Joaquin County and the Silicon Valley. The ACE trains are funded through a partnership which includes the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, San Joaquin County, and Santa Clara County. Near capacity, the ACE trains are so popular that a third morning train is being added soon.

For more information on ACE, please call the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission at (209) 468-5600.

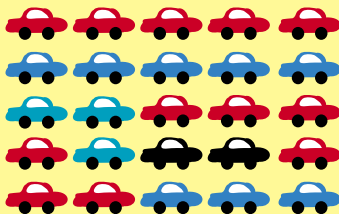
Prime Time Bus Service

If you live in the Tri-Valley and need to get to work in Silicon Valley try Prime Time. Prime Time subscription bus service picks up at two locations in the Tri-Valley and drops employees off at major employers, such as Lockheed in the Silicon Valley. Prime Time is brought to you by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) and the ACCMA.

For more information on Prime Time, please call LAVTA (925) 455-7555. ■

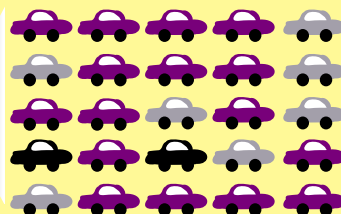
Who Uses I-680 Southbound on the Sunol Grade?

From Home:



46% Eastern Alameda County
33% Contra Costa County
11% San Joaquin County
10% Other

To Work:



65% Santa Clara County
24% Southern Alameda County
11% Other

continued from page 1

With the support of SOS, the PAC, and local elected officials, Congresswoman Tauscher and Senator Liz Figueroa secured the funding, the necessary legislative authorization, and resources needed for an expedited project. This dynamic duo secured \$38 million in state funds and \$9 million in federal funds all aimed at bringing rapid relief to the Sunol Grade. The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA), dedicated \$15 million in regional funds and the Santa Clara Transportation Authority followed suit with an additional \$22 million for the project.

Previous legislation had prevented carpool or High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in this area of Alameda County. Again, Congresswoman Tauscher at the federal level and Senator Figueroa at the state level cleared the way authoring the necessary legislation to allow for HOV lanes to be a part of the solution. Finally, ACCMA, hired a project expeditor to coordinate with the agencies to make sure the project stays on track and Caltrans made it a top priority.

This cooperative effort has resulted in two separate but complimentary projects being funded and ready for

implementation on the Sunol grade. The first project is an auxiliary lane to facilitate traffic at the critical on and off ramps between Automall Parkway and Mission Boulevard South. The second project will create a southbound HOV lane between Sunol-Route 84 and Calaveras Boulevard-Route 237 with metering at on ramps and various structural improvements. The auxiliary lane is expected to be completed four years earlier than originally scheduled and the HOV lane is scheduled to open three years earlier than originally planned. ■

Did you know?

The Sunol Grade improvements will be one of the fastest congestion relief projects provided for commuters; with funding secured in 1998 and the auxiliary lane completion in 2000 and HOV lane opening in late 2001.



WHO IS ACCMA?

The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) is the local agency responsible for planning improvements in streets, highways, and mass transit in Alameda County. Its governing board is comprised of elected officials representing all of the local governments and major transit agencies in Alameda County

For more information about ACCMA, please contact us at:

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1333 Broadway, Suite 220
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel: 510/836-2560
Fax: 510/836-2185
Web site: WWW.accma.ca.gov
Email: alacocma@aol.com
Executive Director: Dennis Fay

Solutions on Sunol: The Private Sector Seeking Solutions

Employees, goods and services – all delayed due to congestion on the Sunol Grade. This is why employers and businesses interests came together to advocate for funding and quick solutions to congestion on the Bay Area's most congested freeway.

Spearheaded by Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, the Solutions on Sunol (SOS) coalition brought a

geographically diverse group of concerned interests together to help to resolve a regional transportation problem. Membership in SOS is made up of the Contra Costa Council, the Tri-Valley Business Council, the Silicon Valley Manufacturers Association, the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, and the Bay Area Council. ■

Did you know?

Every year 16.5 million dollars of productivity is lost due to sitting in traffic on the Sunol Grade.

Did you know?

Over 3 million extra gallons of gasoline per year are consumed due to congestion on the Sunol Grade.

1680/Solutions on Sunol

Alameda County Congestion Management Agency
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Oakland, CA 94612

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Address correction requested.

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